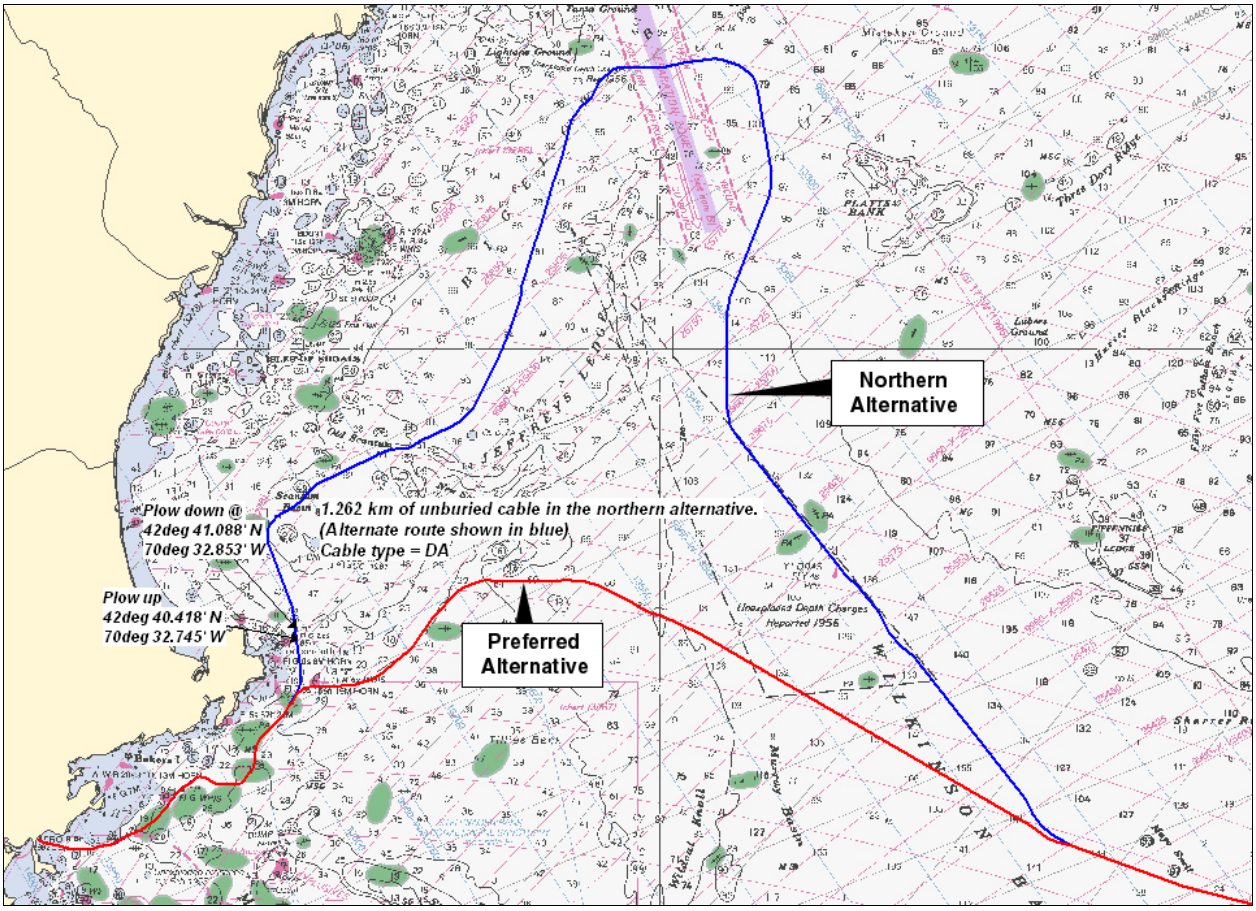
Figure 2-4: Northern Alternative Cable Route (360networks, inc. 2000a)



Farther north along the route, a small crevasse was surveyed. The area is bounded on both sides by large outcrops of granite bedrock. The area was surveyed extensively in search of a more benign route. Although a 3 km swath was conducted, no such route was found. Another concern related to the area is the speed of the currents that travel through the crevasse. The current could cause cable strumming or removal of sediment from the area that could jeopardize the integrity of the cable.

The northern portion of Jeffrey's Ledge is composed of large areas of granite outcrops and sharp granite ridges. To avoid these outcrops, a new survey route was identified 5 km south of the original route, but still north of Jeffrey's Ledge. The new route did prove more hospitable, with less frequent outcrops of granite. The area remains a concern related to installation because of the proximity of the cable route to the outcrops. Therefore, selection of the Northern Alternative would require that certain portions of the cable be installed along the seafloor (approximately 1.262 km), rather than buried (Earth Tech 1999).

Cable Characteristics

Should the Northern Alternative route be chosen, the technical specifications for the proposed cable would differ slightly than those for the Preferred Alternative. If a fiber-optic cable is to be laid on the sea floor without burial, additional armoring of the cable is necessary to lessen the potential for accidental